

What is Claimed:

1. A towing member for hand towing a piece of baggage, the towing member comprising:

an arm portion configured and adapted to be secured to a piece of baggage;

5 a towing handle; and

a pivot mechanism connecting the towing handle to the arm portion in a manner that allows the towing handle to move relative to the arm portion.

2. The towing member of claim 1, wherein:

the arm portion is configured and adapted to be permanently secured to a piece of baggage.

3. The towing member of claim 1, wherein:

the arm portion is movable between extended and retracted positions when the arm portion is attached to a piece of baggage such that the towing handle is closer to

5 the piece of baggage when the arm is in the retracted position than when the arm is in the extended position.

4. The towing member of claim 3, wherein:

the arm portion consists essentially of one single-pole extendable member.

5. The towing member of claim 4, wherein:

the towing handle is generally T-shaped.

6. The towing member of claim 4, wherein:

the single-pole extendable member has a center-axis that extends along a length of the single-pole extendable

member and the pivot mechanism enables the towing handle
5 to pivot about the center-axis.

7. The towing member of claim 6, wherein:
the pivot mechanism allows rotation of the towing handle about the center-axis of the single-pole extendable member.
8. The towing member of claim 6, wherein:
the pivot mechanism allows the towing handle to rotate at least 360° about the center axis of the single-pole extendable member.

9. The towing member of claim 4, wherein:
the single-pole extendable member is comprised of at least two telescoping sections that are slidably attached to each other for relative telescoping movement, the
5 relative telescoping movement allowing the arm portion to be movable between the extended and the retracted positions.

10. The towing member of claim 8, wherein:
the pivot mechanism has a passage therethrough that permits operative connection between a release mechanism positioned on the towing handle and a locking mechanism
5 on the arm portion.

11. The towing member of claim 1, wherein:

the arm portion has a length with opposite proximal and distal ends, the proximal end is adapted to be secured to a piece of baggage and the distal end is connected to the towing handle by the pivot mechanism, and the pivot mechanism includes a pivot pin that connects the towing handle to the distal end of the arm portion for pivoting movement of the towing handle about the pivot pin and relative to the arm portion.

12. The towing member of claim 11, wherein:

the pivot pin is contained entirely inside the arm portion and the towing handle.

13. The towing member of claim 11, wherein:

the pivot pin has a center bore passing through the pin.

14. The towing member of claim 11, wherein:

the pivot pin cantilevers from the arm portion distal end.

15. The towing member of claim 11, wherein:

the arm distal end has an arm flat surface and the towing handle has a handle flat surface, the arm flat surface engages flush against the handle flat surface and
5 the pivot pin passes through and connects both the arm flat surface and the handle flat surface for sliding, rotating movement against each other.

16. The towing member of claim 11, wherein:

the towing handle is T-shaped and has an elongated hand grip with opposite ends and a stem that intersects

and projects from the hand grip intermediate the hand
5 grip opposite ends, and the pivot pin passes through the
stem.

17. The towing member of claim 11, wherein:
the arm portion is tubular and has a hollow interior
and the pivot pin has a center bore that passes through
the pin and communicates with the hollow interior of the
5 arm portion.

18. A hand towed piece of baggage comprising:
a piece of baggage;
a set of wheels on the piece of baggage, the set of
wheels having an axis of rotation;
5 an arm portion having a length with opposite
proximal and distal ends, the proximal end being
operatively secured to the piece of baggage,
a pivot mechanism connected to the distal end of the
arm portion; and
10 a towing handle connected to the pivot mechanism for
relative movement between the towing handle and the arm
portion.

19. The piece of baggage of claim 18, wherein:
the pivot mechanism has a pivot axis and connects
the towing handle to the arm portion for pivoting
movement of the towing handle about the pivot axis, and
5 the pivot axis is perpendicular to the axis of rotation
of the set of wheels.

20. The piece of baggage of claim 18, wherein:
the arm portion consists essentially of a single
pole.

21. The piece of baggage of claim 18, wherein:
the arm portion has a center axis that extends the length of the arm portion and the pivot mechanism has a pivot axis and connects the towing handle to the arm
5 portion for pivoting movement of the towing handle about the pivot axis, and the pivot axis is coaxial with the center axis of the arm portion at the distal end of the arm portion.
22. The piece of baggage of claim 18, wherein:
the pivot mechanism has a pivot axis and connects the towing handle to the arm portion for rotation of the towing handle about the pivot axis.
23. The piece of baggage of claim 18, wherein:
the pivot mechanism includes a pivot pin that connects the towing handle to the distal end of the arm portion for pivoting movement of the towing handle about
5 the pivot pin.
24. The piece of baggage of claim 23, wherein:
the pivot pin has a center bore passing through the pin.
25. The piece of baggage of claim 24, wherein:
the arm portion is tubular and has a hollow interior and the pivot pin center bore communicates with the hollow interior of the arm portion.
26. The piece of baggage of claim 23, wherein:
the pivot pin is contained entirely inside the arm portion and the towing handle.

27. The piece of baggage of claim 23, wherein:
the pivot pin cantilevers from the arm portion
distal end.

28. The piece of baggage of claim 23, wherein:
the arm distal end has an arm flat surface and
the towing handle has a handle flat surface, the arm flat
surface engages flush against the handle flat surface and
5 the pivot pin passes through and connects both the arm
flat surface and the handle flat surface for sliding,
rotating movement against each other.

29. The piece of baggage of claim 23, wherein:
the towing handle is T-shaped and has an elongated
hand grip with opposite ends and a stem that intersects
and projects from the hand grip intermediate the hand
5 grip opposite ends, and the pivot pin passes through the
stem.